



US Army Corps  
of Engineers

Baltimore District

Public Affairs Office

P.O. Box 1715

Baltimore, MD 21203

(410) 962-2809

Fax: (410) 962-3660

# News Release

Release No. 01-11

Contact: Doug Garman

For Release: April 16, 2001

Phone: (410) 962-2809

---

## **Corps of Engineers begins dredging of Brewerton Channel Eastern Extension, placement at Poplar Island**

**Baltimore** – Officials from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced today that dredging has begun on the project to widen the Brewerton Channel Eastern Extension.

This project involves widening the western five miles of the channel from 450 feet to the authorized width of 600 feet. The purpose of the project is to provide safer and more efficient movement of vessels using the Port of Baltimore. In August 2000, the Corps of Engineers awarded an \$18.4 million contract to Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Company of Oakbrook, Ill., for the Brewerton dredging.

The 2.5 million cubic yards of dredged material is being placed at the Poplar Island Environmental Restoration Project in Talbot County, Md. This is the first inflow of dredged material to this beneficial use placement site.

Poplar Island is a group of islands located in the upper middle Chesapeake Bay. The restoration will return it to the approximate size it was in 1847. It has been identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources as a valuable nesting and nursery area for many species of wildlife, including bald eagles, osprey, heron, and egret. Ultimately, the Poplar Island site will be developed into 1,140 acres of wetland and upland habitat. By placing clean dredged material at Poplar Island, the Corps will restore critical island habitat for shorebirds in the Chesapeake Bay.

The Brewerton Channel Eastern Extension project is a key link in the Port of Baltimore's water transportation system. Construction of this project will benefit the Port community, including the large cargo shippers of Wallenius Wilhelmsen and Mediterranean Shipping Company who recently signed agreements with the Maryland Port Administration. As a vital part of our national and regional economy, the Port of Baltimore generates nearly \$1.3 billion in economic benefits. More than 126,000 jobs across the state are related in some way to the movement of cargo across the port's piers.

- 30 -

<http://www.nab.usace.army.mil>